

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 221103Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7615

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 4660

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM POST ON INTERIM AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

1. THE FOLLOWING PORTION OF AN ARTICLE BY DAVID LANDAU FROM JULY 22 JERUSALEM POST IS GOOD EXAMPLE OF RECENT REPORTING IN ISRAELI PRESS RE NEGOTIATIONS FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT WHILE FEW OBSERVERS HERE EXPECTED BLANKET APPROVAL BY CIARO OF ISRAEL'S LATEST SETTLEMENT PACKAE, THE HOPE IN JERUSALEM LAST NIGHT WAS THAT THE EGYPTIAN RESPONSE WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY POSITIVE TO ENBALE THE NEGOTIATIONS TO MOVE TO THEIR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. IT WAS ASSUMED, MOREOVE, THAT IF PRESIDEN SADAT DECIDES ON A BROADLY FAVOURABLE RESPONSE HE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT HTEUNEF MANDAE PROBLEM IS SMOOTHLY RESOLVED AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

3. WORD OF TH EGYPTAIN RESPONSE WAS EXPECTED TODAY, AND SINCE THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS DU TO CONVENE THIS EVENING ON THE MANDATE QUESTION, TODAY WAS SEEN AS A CRUCIAL JUNCTURE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. THE ISRAEL SETTLEMENT PACKAGE WAS APPROVED BY THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CABINET BEFORE DAWN YESTERDAY, AFTER A FIVE-HOUR LATE-

NIGHTSESSION. THE APPROVAL WAS IMMEDIATELY CALLED TO WASHINGTON. ENABLING DR. KISSINGER TO INFORM EGYPT THAT THE MAPS AND PROPOSALS TRANSMITTED BY U.S. AMBASSADOR HERMAN EILTS NOW COMPRISED ISRAEL'S AUTHORITY AND OFFICIAL POSITION.

5. A CABINET STATEMENT ISSUED AT 4 A.M. NOTED THAT THE PACKAGE HAD INCLUDED "GEOGRAPHICAL PRINCIPLES" THE FIRST TIME ANY REFERENCE TO GEOGRAPHY HAS BEEN MADE IN AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE. OFFICIAL SAID THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THE WITHDRAWAL LINE WHICH ISRAEL NOW PROPOSED WAS TO BE SEEN AS ITS LAST WORD, AND THAT NO FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS COULD BE CONSIDERED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE WORD "PRINCIPLE" DELIBERATELY CHOSEN, APPEARED TO ALLOW FOR SOME FURTHER BARGAINING ON DETAILS.

6. THE PROPOSALS CALL FOR AN ISRAELI PULLBACK TO THE EASTERN ENDS OF THE SINAI PASSES, WITH THE TOWERING JEBEL GIDI PEAK, AT THE EAST OF THE GIDI PASS, TO REMAIN IN ISRAEL'S HANDS.

7. THERE WOULD BE AN ISRAEL SURVEILLANCE STATION AT UM HASHIBA, ON THE WEST OF THE GIDI, AND AN EGYPTIAN STATION ON THE EAST OF THE PASS. BOTH WOULD BE "SUPERVISED" BY AN AMERICAN TECHNICAL MISSION WHICH WOULD ALSO MAN FOUR TO SIX ADDITIONAL STATIONS ON VARIOUS PEAKS IN THE AREA.

8. THE LINE NORTH OF THE PASSES TO THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST WOULD RUN SLIGHTLY NORTH-WESTWARDS TO A POINT BETWEEN ROMANI AND BARDAWIL.

9. IN THE SOUTH, ISRAEL WOULD CEDE ABU RODEIS AND THE LAND STRIP LINKING IT TO THE HEAD OF THE GULF OF SUEZ. IT WOULD RETAIN PARTS OF THE INLAND ROAD TO SHARM EL SHEIKH, AND BUILD NEW PARTS WHERE THE INLAND ROAD RUNS CLOSE TO THE COASTAL ROAD, WHICH WOULD BE CEDED TO EGYPT.

10. DURING THE CABINET DEBATE, A NUMBER OF MINISTERS, BOTH UNCLASSIFIED

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HAWKS AND DOVES, TOOK ISSUE WITH DETAILED ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL, BUT IN THE FINAL VOTE NO ONE OPPOSED THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE AND THERE WERE ONLY ONE OR TWO ABSTENTIONS (BY HAWKS). THE EX-RAFI MINISTERS SHIMON PERES AND GAD YACOBBI BOTH VOTED FOR THE PROPOSAL.  
END TEXT.  
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